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HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECEIVES BUDGET AWARD

(Bel Air, MD - November 18, 2008) - - The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has announced that Harford County Government has received the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. The award represents significant achievement by Harford County in meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

To receive the award, Harford County Government had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The established guidelines are designed to assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operational guide and communication tool.

In order to qualify for the award, the county's budget documents were rated proficient in each category.

A Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation was awarded by the GFOA to the Harford County Office of Budget and Management Research for their work in preparing the county budget documents.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving 17,500 government finance professionals throughout North America. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards initiative in governmental budgeting. Recipients of the award have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide exemplary standards for governmental entities to follow.

Commenting on receiving the award, Harford County Executive David R. Craig stated, "The Office of Budget and Management Research, under the direction of Kim Spence, continues to do an excellent job in preparing and managing the county's annual budget document. We are grateful for this award and especially to be recognized by such a prestigious organization."